

1107 Overlook Drive  
Coatesville, PA 19320  
August 20, 1990

Harold Weisberg  
7627 Old Receiver Drive  
Frederick, MD 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

We have communicated several times within the last year, and I greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness and kindness in your prompt responses. Maybe you don't get that much personal mail any more, but I do know you are not too big a person to ignore the little people like myself, and that's really a good quality.

I have read Whitewash II now (but not the original Whitewash) and as I said in the last letter am struck by HOW MUCH you knew that many years ago. It is a tremendous thing you have done for the American public, because you have sought truth and have been unselfish about it...at least that is my opinion.

I wish I had known about you many years ago, for surely I would have read your stuff instead of rummaging around in the "rags" which some of the other authors have given us.

Since I am a slow reader, and analytical by nature, I do a lot of underlining and pondering as I go. You have indeed done a lot of thinking and reading of the materials connected with the JFK cover-up, etc., and I can thank God for a person like yourself, knowing that it would have taken me about 3-4 times as long as you to do what you have done. Being a teacher I think in terms of saying you "have done my homework for me" and that's wonderful.

Apparently you have a very good background for doing what you have done--being a reporter, working in the Senate, and being connected with the OSS (sounds sinister, huh?!); that gives you a strong edge over others.

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When you reply to my major question in this letter, please tell me if I should read Roffman's Presumed Guilty next, or Meagher's Accessories After the Fact. Remember, I said I am a slow reader.

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Major Reason for Writing

In numerous places in Whitewash II you have written that Zapruder's camera was running at 18.3 frames per second. I will not quote those places to you since you have them probably almost memorized.

However, on pp. 183-184 you have written that it was 24 frames per second, which we know is used in regular sound movies. This is stated in Robert M. Barrett's FBI report of December 4, 1963.

Was Barrett mistaken? That is, did he think that camera was running at 24 frames when it was actually running at 18.3 frames?? This DOES NOT appear to be the case because at the bottom of page 184 you write:

The FBI knew not later than December 4, 1963, that the Zapruder camera had exposed 24 frames of film per second, yet it made a false "reconstruction" of the assassination based on a camera speed of 18 fps.

Yet, my point is that in your writing during all the other places in Whitewash II you continue to refer to 18 fps as if THAT is the truth.

So, which is it? Or don't we know?

If we do know then it needs to be continually reinforced in the mind of the reader that 18 fps is NOT accurate, because we cannot overemphasize it enough. The critical nature of the speed of Zapruder's camera is paramount to arriving at the truth, and the case against the Warren conclusion is greatly enhanced. *OR IS IT?*

Have others asked you about this?

Does that particular camera indeed have a speed setting control? Being 8 mm I cannot imagine that it does take pictures at 24 frames per second, unless it was an option to give slight "slow motion".

Please respond.

Cordially,

*Thomas A. Blane*



Dear Mr. Bhame,

8/24/90

Your presumption is wrong: I am getting more mail than I was five years ago and I do try to respond to all of it.

But I do appreciate your kind comments.

I was not a spook in the OSS. I did some investigating and I was an analyst.

If you can get or have the Roffman and Meagher books I cannot speak to highly of either. Both are simply the best!

Both have long been out of print, alas.

I hope you are not as slow a reader as I am. Don't let it intimidate you.

I do not now have a clear recollection of all that I said about the speed at which Zapruder ran his camera. However, I am pretty sure that I did not say he ran it at 24 fps. I am confident that I quoted SA Barrett on that and used parts of his report in facsimile. The FBI said its normal speed averaged 18.3 fps when examined at FBUHQ.

Barrett was mistaken on all counts. I finally got a duplicate of that camera and at slow motion it is about 45 fps, I've forgotten the precise figure. That camera had a single control for its three speeds and shifting from one to the other meant pushing the single control up or down or keeping it in the middle. We'll apparently never know whether from excitement or by intent he ran it other than at its normal speed. It is a reasonable presumption, however, that he intended normal speed and if not all at least most was at that speed, not the speed Barrett gave and I quoted.

Nobody has asked me about this in years and it long has been out of my mind. My own work progressed far from that.

Best wishes,

  
Harold Weisberg